COMMANDERS DIGEST

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RECEIVED DOCUMENTS DIVISION

'One Army' Concept Will Get Further Emphasis in FY68

Army's posture at the end of FY68 will represent further progress toward the "One Army" concept with actions to date already placing much of the needed support for active divisions into the reserve force structure.

Proposed forces for the end of FY68 are the equivalent of 27 and one-third divisions. Nine of these are reserve components. A reserve infantry division will be converted to mechanized.

Substantial Realignment Progress

Defense Secretary Robert S. McNamara said "very substantial progress" has been made in working out the detailed composition of each division and brigade force, "not only in terms of maneuver battalions, but also in terms of various other combat and support units."

The secretary recalled statements he made in May 1961 supporting a realignment before congressional committees. At that time he noted, "they must be so organized, trained, and equipped as to permit their rapid integration into the active Army."

A "ready" division without "ready" support elements would be incapable of combat, he said. "The division force concept insures that our planning explicitly recognizes this relationship, indeed interdependence, between the division and its major support elements, since it requires us to identify these elements in detail."

For the priority reserve, Mr. McNamara said: "We are temporarily treating three of the existing brigades as brigade forces, leaving 13 in the supporting forces in FY68."

While there are no plans to change the number of priority reserve maneuver battalions, specific mission assignments will change.

New Airmobile Unit in FY69

Plans are to convert an active airborne division to airmobile configuration in early FY69. A new, permanent airborne brigade will be formed from the converted division's excess elements.

There will be a small increase in Army maneuver battalions to increase the armor content of the Europe-oriented forces and the infantry content for other forces.

ALL ASHORE—Maj. Gen. George S. Eckhardt, commanding general of the 9th Infantry Division from Ft. Riley, Kansas, leads his troops ashore at the port city of Vung Tau, Republic of Vietnam.

Adm. McDonald Cites Navy Role in Combat Air Strikes

Nearly 50 percent of all combat air strikes over Vietnam during the past 18 months have been flown by carrier-based pilots, according to Chief of Naval Operations Adm. David L. McDonald.

Pointing to the Navy's role as part of the nation's force in readiness, Adm. McDonald said first air strikes against North Vietnamese targets were flown from aircraft carriers because "they were there; they were ready; they were operating on the free oceans, and they could be used at the sole direction of our President."

Speaking before the National Security Industrial Association in Los Angeles, the admiral noted that while advances were being made in Naval weapons systems, "the Air Force's Strategic Air Command, augmented by the Navy's Polaris weapons system and our nuclear-capable aircraft carriers, had successfully achieved our country's highest priority mission; that of deterring a nuclear conflict."

The admiral said that 98 percent of all material going into Vietnam today is transported by ship. He explained this includes all trucks, helicopter and aviation fuels; all food, most of the ammunition; all heavy equipment, and all construction materials.

Washington Memos

BUDGET REQUEST FOR activities in Fiscal Year 1968 for National Space Program is estimated at $7.1 billion, a 5.2 percent increase over funds appropriated for space projects in FY67.

VIETNAM NEEDS HAVE resulted in Army doubling production rate of M113 armored personnel carrier family. Army has also reopened standby ammunition plants, nearly tripling ammunition production deliveries since FY66.

AIR FORCE WILL begin light aircraft flying training for cadets at Air Force Academy, Colorado Springs, Colo., in January 1968. During senior year, physically qualified academy cadets will receive about 36 hours of flight instruction plus associated ground school study.

BASIC TRAINING COMPANIES were expanded from 43 to 63 in 1966 by Army. This enabled Army to maintain fully-manned units in Vietnam and to support the one-year rotation policy. Army Training Centers and Army school system have priority for Vietnam returnees. Some 9,000 veterans now serve in the training system.

BUREAU OF NAVAL Personnel is maintaining close liaison with naval commands ashore in Vietnam to insure timely relief of officers. Officers are selected as much as nine months in advance of scheduled reassignment dates.

PAST YEAR HAS brought increased capacity to Army's logistics system in Vietnam. Tonnage passing through Army-operated ports a year ago was 350,000 short tons. Today, these ports handle 600,000.

ARMY OCS HAS produced 8,000 second lieutenants during past year, with another 10,000 coming from ROTC. Five new Army OCSs have been opened and total enrollment has increased from 1,800 to 14,000.

FLOATING NUCLEAR POWER Station Sturgis, designed to provide electrical power for military operations or communities hit by peacetime disasters began operations on a test basis at Ft. Belvoir, Va., late last month. Station is mounted in the hull of a modified 10,000-ton World War II Liberty ship and can be towed to any port in the world. Plant is capable of producing 10 million watts of electricity for one year without refueling.

MORE THAN 10,000 aviators are in the active Army. About one-third of these are warrant officers. Army's aim is a pilot force of 50 percent officers and 50 percent warrant officers.

ROYAL ORDER OF the Sword, one of Sweden's highest military decorations, was presented to Capt. Robert Earle Hawthorne, former Naval Attache at Stockholm and presently serving as Director of Administration and Logistics at U.S. Naval Academy. Medal was presented by Sweden's Ambassador to U.S., Hubert de Besche.

SOME 4,800 ARMY officers and noncoms are currently serving as advisors to Vietnamese Regular Army and Regional and Popular Forces. They also work with local civil authorities in all of South Vietnam's 44 provinces and in 195 of the country's districts.

BRANIFF INTERNATIONAL AIRWAYS has established an annual education scholarship in memory of Gen. Frank M. Andrews, longtime advocate of four-engine heavy bombers and the first Air Corps officer to serve as Chief of Operations under Gen. George Marshall before World War II. Scholarship to Air Force Academy will be awarded to a young man dedicated to a career in the Air Force.

FIRST MAJOR HOUSING project to be built by Coast Guard, a $3.8 million, 164-unit community, was begun Feb. 1 in Red Hill area west of Honolulu. To be constructed on a 34-acre site, project will contain 11 single houses, 16 duplexes and 30 two-story townhouses and is expected to be completed in April 1968.

STATE OF VIRGINIA will administer its first Engineer-in-Training examination at Ft. Belvoir Army Engineer School. Upon successful completion of exam students will be qualified for a Virginia EIT (Engineer-in-Training) certificate.

LAST AIR FORCE pilots to earn their wings in the T-33 Shooting Star graduated from Craig AFB, Ala., Feb. 8. Craig is the last undergraduate pilot training base in the Air Training Command to use the T-33. Since the first student flew in a T-33 in 1949, more than 36,000 Air Force pilots have completed training in the aircraft.

VIETNAM FACT SHEET, DOD FS-29, is out and gives run down on organization and responsibilities of the U.S. Mission in Vietnam. Fact sheet also contains organizational chart of MACV.

AIR UNIVERSITY, Maxwell AFB, Ala., is seeking applicants for duty with 177 Air Force Reserve Officers Training Corps detachments. Personnel in airman first class through master sergeant grades in the administrative and personnel career fields are particularly desired. Complete details are available at local personnel offices.

COMMANDERS DIGEST

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Background for Commanders

RUSSIA'S 'FORGOTTEN' REVOLUTION

The year 1917 was marked by two Russian revolutions—but only one will be officially honored in 50th anniversary celebrations to be held throughout the USSR in 1967.

The "forgotten" uprising of February 1917—a spontaneous movement which forced the abdication of Czar Nicholas II and brought the beginnings of representative government to Russia—was eclipsed only eight months later in a counter-revolution staged by V. I. Lenin and his minority group of political extremists known as Bolsheviks.

But for a brief period after the Czar abdicated on March 2 (March 15 by the present Soviet calendar), Russian democrats of all political persuasions hoped that the country's dream of popular rule was nearing realization.

Events moved swiftly in the first days of 1917. Unrest, confusion and suffering were widespread. Conditions were becoming intolerable for both soldiers and workers. The people's resentments crystallized and a seemingly irresistible although apparently leaderless movement was underway.

Czar Abdicates

Czar Nicholas, a vacillating, aloof autocrat who had lived for years in fear of assassination, ignored the warning signal of a workers' strike and increased signs of opposition in the Duma (parliament), although a socialist member of this body had openly demanded his removal—by force if necessary.

Workers' strikes followed, and mobs thronged the streets.

The Czar ordered the Duma dissolved, but it continued to meet. Russian troops were ordered to fire on the crowds, but aimed over their heads. Finally Czar Nicholas renounced his crown.

Democratic Government Plans Free Elections

A provisional government, appointed by the Duma and working in close cooperation with the newly organized Soviet (or Council) of Workers' and Soldiers' Deputies, immediately launched reforms to provide for a democratic system.

All political, civil and military prisoners were freed. Freedom of press, speech and assembly was proclaimed. The right of workers to strike and to form unions was affirmed. The hated Czarist secret police was disbanded; national, religious and class distinctions were outlawed.

Plans also were made to convene a constituent assembly, selected in nation-wide elections, to draft a constitution and organize a permanent form of democratic government.

All of these accomplishments had been achieved by progressive political groups with no help of any kind from the Bolshevik leadership. Lenin, Leon Trotsky and Josef Stalin, as a matter of fact, were in exile.

However, the Bolsheviks began to plan for a second revolution. Lenin returned in April and gathered around him a small group of professional conspirators. Utilizing what was to become a classic Communist technique of fomenting unrest, setting one group against another and infiltrating military and other organizations, Lenin's revolutionaries gradually weakened the provisional government's fragile hold on the country.

Bolshevik Coup d'Etat

Finally, on Oct. 25 (Nov. 7 by the present calendar) the Bolsheviks staged their famous coup d'etat and Russia's experiment in democracy quickly disintegrated.

Two more efforts were made to reverse the totalitarian trend.

The Russian public, in what was to be its only opportunity to participate in a genuinely free election, voted four to one against the Bolsheviks when Lenin optimistically permitted late November balloting for the constituent assembly to proceed as previously scheduled. The Bolsheviks, who had hoped to dominate the voting, simply ignored this expression of the people's disapproval.

In January 1918 when the constituent assembly met in a desperate attempt to carry out the popular mandate, it was forcibly disbanded by armed Bolshevik guards.

New Rights Abolished

Meanwhile, outnumbered but in command of the country's only organized armed forces, the Bolsheviks had begun cancellation of the rights accorded all Russians by the shortlived provisional government. All non-Bolshevik newspapers were suppressed. A secret police network was organized. The right of workers to strike was denied and the first steps were taken in what was to become an extensive campaign against religion. Other decrees, as the months and years passed, furthered the basic concept which still governs life in the USSR—that no action can be correct unless it is sanctioned by the Communist party.

In 1967, therefore, it is the 50th anniversary of the establishment of the world's first Communist regime, not the end of Czarist rule, that Soviet officials will celebrate in ceremonies to be climaxed on Nov. 7.

Navy Strategic Warfare Activities Centralized

All Navy strategic warfare activities were placed under a central authority within the Office of the Chief of Naval Operations on Feb. 1, to provide guidance and coordination for planning, development and study of growing strategic forces.

Establishment of the Office of Director for Strategic Offensive and Defensive Systems (OP-97), was announced by Navy Secretary Paul H. Nitze.

Secretary Nitze said creation of this office recognizes within the Navy Department the increasing importance of naval forces in national strategic systems.

RAdm. George H. Miller has been designated the first director. Adm. Miller has been director of the Long Range Objectives Group and Chairman, Strategic Systems Action Group, Office of the Chief of Naval Operations.

Gamma Globulin Studied As Hepatitis Preventative

A study to determine gamma globulin effectiveness against infectious hepatitis will be started in May by the Army Medical Research and Development Command and the U.S. Army Pacific.

Aim of the study is to verify the effectiveness and the optimum dosage for hepatitis prevention in an operational situation. Army personnel in Korea will receive gamma globulin in various dosages to determine the degree of protection each dosage affords.

This study will require between one and two years. In the interim, gamma globulin will continue to be given all those in operational areas where exposure to hepatitis virus sources is unavoidable.

Nearly 1,200 hepatitis cases occurred in the Army during FY66, despite mass prevention efforts in selected oversea areas. This caused around 53,000 man-days lost from duty. More than 50 cases occurred in Vietnam alone.

NAVY COMMENDATION—Maj. Arthur Eppley, USMC (right), receives the Navy Commendation Medal with Combat "V" from Col. W. B. Higgins, Marine Wing Headquarters Group 3 commanding officer. Maj. Eppley earned the award for meritorious service as administrative officer with the Third Marine Division in RVN.

Hunter AF Base to Become Army Air Training Base

Hunter Air Force Base, Ga., is scheduled for transfer to the Army and merger with Ft. Stewart, Ga., providing Army aviation training as a Class I installation of the Third U.S. Army.

The Air Force base, initially scheduled for closure in July 1967, will afford billeting and flight facilities to support Army's advanced flight training. Aerial gunnery ranges will be at Ft. Stewart.

Army Enters Phase Two Of Position Conversion

The Army has converted 26,084 positions from military to civilian in the CY66 Civilianization Program to achieve 95 percent of the first phase objectives despite a generally tight labor market.

Program's second phase will be carried out in the coming fiscal year by converting 550 officer and 12,745 enlisted positions.

Certain problems are foreseen in hiring skilled civilians to fill 335 officer and 5,886 enlisted positions.

'Missile Mentors' Installed At ARADCOM Sites

Missile Mentor, a new computer-controlled system for tying together battle actions of surface-to-air missile (SAM) units, has been installed in nine Army Air Defense Command (ARADCOM) defense areas across the nation.

The Missile Mentor not only provides means of coordinating the fire from Army SAM sites, but provides a command link with North American Air Defense Command, the controlling element for ARADCOM units.

Brigadier General Robert C. Gildart, commanding general of the 35th Artillery Brigade at Ft. Meade, Md., said the Missile Mentor will improve the potential combat effectiveness while reducing manpower requirements and cost of missile protection.

Army Service Only Planned For Draftees in FY67-68

Only the Army plans to use the draft during FY67 and FY68, Defense Secretary McNamara has told Congress.

He noted the Army had been the principal Selective Service user in FY66, taking 317,000 of 340,000 men inducted during the period. The Navy used 3,000 draftees and the Marine Corps 20,000.

As inductions went down, first term enlistments went up. "First enlistments totalled 533,000 in FY66, an increase of nearly 80 percent over FY65 and the largest annual total since 1951," he elaborated.

Army Helicopter Company Logs 4,000 Sorties Monthly

A helicopter unit which has served in Vietnam for more than five years is now flying more than 4,000 sorties monthly from Tan Son Nhut Air Base near Saigon.

Army's 120th Aviation Company, dubbed "The Deans," transports combat troops and other personnel, flies photographic missions and supports tactical ground operations.

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